English I Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Julius Caesar

Study Guide

Act 2

Directions: Complete the following questions while reading the play.

Scene 1

1. *(10-34)* What are Brutus’s thoughts as he agonizes about Rome’s future under Julius Caesar during the night?
   1. What does Brutus mean by the remark, *(14-15) “It is a bright day that bring forth the adder,/And that craves wary walking*.”?
   2. Paraphrase: *(32-34) “Therefore think of him as a serpent’s egg,/Which hatched, would as his kind grow mischievous,/And kill him in the shell*.”
2. *(55-58 )*How does Brutus react to the letters thrown into the window?
3. Paraphrase: *(55)* “*Speak! Strike! Redress!”* Paraphrase the simile *(63-65)*
4. What upsets Brutus about the men who visit him during the night when he says,

*(78-80) “O, Conspiracy*

*Sham’st thou to show thy dang’rous brow by night*

*When evils are most free? O, then y day*

*Where wilt thou find a cavern dark enough*

*To Mask thy monstrous visage?*

1. *(115-140)* What reasons does Brutus give for arguing against the idea that the conspirators sign an oath of allegiance to protect them during their assassination plot?
2. *(144-149)* Why is Cicero’s name brought up as a possible conspirator?
   1. Why does Brutus think he will not join them?
3. *(155-161)* Why does Cassius include Mark Anthony as a target of their assassination plot?
4. *(162-180)* What are Brutus’s reasons for ***not*** wanting to kill Mark Anthony?
   1. *(173-175)* What does he mean when he says, “*Let us carve him as a dish fit for the gods,/Not hew him as a carcass fit for hounds.*”?
5. *(237-256; 261-2787)* Why is Portia concerned about her husband’s recent behavior?
   1. *(291-298)* What arguments does she give to convince Brutus to “unfold to me, yourself.”?
   2. *(200-302)* What has she done to prove her trustworthiness?

Scene 2

1. *(13-54 )*What arguments does Calpurnia use to deep Caesar from going to the Capitol?
   1. *(32-46)* How does Caesar refute her arguments?
   2. *(32-33)* What does he mean when he says, “*Cowards die many times before their deaths;/the valiant never taste of death but once*”?
2. *(55-56)* Why does Caesar finally decide to stay home from the Senate?
   1. *(69-70)*What is Decius’s response to Caesar’s announcement?
   2. *(85-89)*How does he reinterpret Calpurnia’s dream?

*Your statue spouting blood in many pipes*

*In which so many smiling Romans bathed*

*Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck*

*Reviving blood, and that great men shall press*

*For tinctures, stains, relics, and cognizance*

* 1. *(92-104)*What additional argument does he use to sway Caesar’s decision?

Scene 3

1. *(1-14)* Paraphrase the contents of Artimidorus’s letter.
   1. When does he plan to give Caesar the letter?

Scene 4

1. Describe Portia’s behavior as she awaits word of Brutus from the Senate?
   1. Whom does she meet on the street?
   2. Why did Shakespeare include this short scene in the play?

Getting a Meaning:

1. **Simile**: What 2 items are being compared in the following simile: *(63-65)*

*Between the acting of a dreadful thing/ And the first motion, all the interim*

*is /Like a phantasma or a hideous dream.”*

1. ***Item 1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

compared to  ***Item 2***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. What does this reveal about Brutus’s state of mind?
2. **Characterization:** Identify a character that meets the definition of the following vocabulary words:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary word:** | **Character** | **Reason** |
| **Realist** |  |  |
| **Idealist** |  |  |
| **Cynic** |  |  |

1. **Pathetic Fallacy:** What strange happenings does Calpurnia describe in the beginning of Act 2?
2. What does Calpurnia believe is causing these events?